

Books and Bookmen

ARTHUR DODGE

still engaged upon her new story, "The School for Saints."

Rudyard Kipling is writing a new short-story of 12,000 words, which he calls "Slaves of the Lamp."

Mr. Andrew Lang contributes to the February number of Good Words an article on Victorian literature. Browning and Tennyson he pronounces the glories of the Victorian age. Dickens, Thackeray, George Eliot, and Charlotte Brontë are put in the first rank, and Charles Reade and Anthony Trollope in the second. Lytton, Trollope, Reade and Kingsley are pronounced lacking the touch of immor-

With special charm does he humanize the Imperialist; that gift which was Dickens', of vivifying the inanimate. In his first story he tells of an ape who wearied of the prison of his circus cage and sought flight. His first attempts free are vain and untruthful. He finds an idiot and a sensitive bond of sympathy in springs up between them, only the ape is the superior of the two for, though both are barren of intellect, he has the more alert instinct. Their adventure is the theme of the sketch. The other stories run the gamut of sensations and characters, but the most interesting is that which delineates the heart of man and nature, and not only keen perception, but the gift of facile expression. The title to none of his stories is so attractive as that of the collection. But so many stories have been written for no other purpose than to reason that to the end of the world, that it is a pleasure to read a short fiction which has inherent and positive merit other than a trick of name. Mr. Morrow has written almost exclusively for the Pacific periodicals, but his introduction by the *Lippincotts* to an Eastern public through the *Atlantic* will no doubt well and modestly insure a reading for any future reader; bearing his superscription.

But the McClure readers have not been drowned in "the Seven Seas." They are diligently watching the adventures of "Captain Courageous," and they are not, however, as Mr. McClure says, "drowning," even, that since Mr. Kipling emerged from the jungles he has kept his readers pretty well as sea.

The complete novel in the April Lippincott is a story by Captain Charles King, and it is as interesting as the story of the sea on politics as dramatized. The writers of this paper does not find on the stage an extensive appreciation of this picturesque feature of American life, and gives it as his belief that Henry Guy Carleton's "Ambition," which is set forward by the Lippincott, is the only political play of significance which has been written. As this

personality appeared. A few days later he wrote another, and then Mr. Davis composed a third, each time adding new stories centering about a single personality. With this idea in mind he wrote the sketch which stands really as the first Van Bibber story, "How Van Bibber Fed the Tramp." It was quite to be expected that Van Bibber's adventures would be repeated. Some of the good-story never again imprisoned, should be hailed with great delight. In a few days Mr. Davis again challenged obvious criticism in the office, which he did not get, by writing "Van Bibber and the Half-a-Dozen Others, each one adding a firm and meaning stroke to the characterization of his 'champion light weight hero,' as one of the staff once called him. It was some time later, after "Galleher" had made Mr. Davis' name famous, that the "Van Bibber" were dug out of the pit of the Sun's fire room for the additional creation which book form would give them."

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